

WHAT WE CLAIM

1. An image carrier cartridge comprising at least one image carrier rotatably supported and exposure means disposed at an exposure position for said image carrier, said image carrier cartridge being designed to be detachable relative to the body of an image forming apparatus, wherein
5 said exposure means comprises an organic EL light emitting element array and an imaging optical system disposed in front of the organic EL light emitting element array, and
10 a light shielding member for shielding at least ultraviolet rays is provided around said exposure means.
2. An image carrier cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said light shielding member has a first light shielding member disposed to cover said organic EL light emitting element array.
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3. An image carrier cartridge as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said light shielding member has a second light shielding member disposed to cover a part of said image carrier near said exposure means so as to prevent ultraviolet rays from being incident on the exposure position of said image carrier.
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4. An image carrier cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein a developing means to be disposed at a developing position for said image carrier is detachable relative to the image carrier cartridge, and said second light shielding member is disposed between a position, where said developing means is allowed to be in contact with said image carrier, and said exposure means.
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5. An image carrier cartridge as claimed in any one of claims 1 through 4, wherein a cleaning means is provided for cleaning a face, confronting said image carrier, of said imaging optical system.

5 6. An image carrier cartridge as claimed in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein an ultraviolet cutting member for cutting out ultraviolet rays is provided on or near the face, confronting said image carrier, of said imaging optical system.

10 7. An image carrier cartridge as claimed in claim 6, wherein said ultraviolet cutting member is provided on a sliding member which is slidable along the face, confronting said image carrier, of said imaging optical system and a cleaning member is provided in such a manner as to touch said 15 ultraviolet cutting member during sliding operation.

20 8. An image carrier cartridge as claimed in any one of claims 1 through 7, wherein said image carrier cartridge comprises a plurality of said image carriers and a plurality of said exposure means corresponding to the respective image carriers.

25 9. An image forming apparatus employing an image carrier cartridge as claimed in any one of claims 1 through 7, and comprising a charging means, an exposure means, a developing means, and a transfer means which are arranged around said image carrier, wherein said image forming apparatus transfers a toner image formed on said image carrier onto a transfer medium.

10. An exposure head to be disposed at an exposure

position for an image carrier, said exposure head comprising at least a transparent substrate, an organic EL light emitting element array having light emitting parts formed on said transparent substrate and aligned in lines, and an 5 imaging optical system disposed in front of said organic EL light emitting element array, wherein

light beams outputted from said light emitting parts pass through said transparent substrate and are projected toward said image carrier, said transparent substrate has 10 surfaces being in parallel to each other, one of the surfaces being a surface on which said light emitting parts are formed and the other being a surface from which said light beams are projected, a member covering said transparent substrate is an opaque member, and all of faces of said opaque member 15 confronting the end faces of said transparent substrate are composed of light absorbing members.

11. An exposure head as claimed in claim 10, wherein the light absorptance of said light absorbing member is set to be larger than the light absorptance of said transparent 20 substrate and to be not larger than 0.5.

12. An exposure head as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11, wherein said light absorbing member is black.

13. An exposure head as claimed in any one of claims 10 through 12, wherein said transparent substrate is 25 optically sealed by said opaque member.

14. An exposure head as claimed in any one of claims 10 through 13, wherein TFTs for driving said light emitting parts are formed on said transparent substrate.

15. An image forming apparatus employing an image carrier cartridge to which an exposure head as claimed in any one of claims 10 through 14 is attached, and comprising a charging means, the exposure means, a developing means, 5 and a transfer means which are arranged around the image carrier, wherein said image forming apparatus transfers a toner image formed on said image carrier onto a transfer medium.